Registration of Indians In Foreign Nation

2958 SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that all the Indian working in foreign countries have not been registered with the respective Indian Embassies;

(b) if so, in what manner the embassies update the records of Indian working in the respective countries; and

(c) whether Government ask the Indian Embassies abroad to compulsorily update the record of Indian working in the respective country for redressing the grievances of Indian there?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Embassies persuade the Indian working in foreign countries through press advertisement/personal contact when Indian approach Embassies for consular services/Indian Associations to register with the Embassies. However, the response from majority of Indians in this regard is not encouraging and up dating the record of all Indians is not fully done.

(c) Government has instructed the Indian Embassies to update record of Indian as far as possible.

Functioning of MOIA

2959. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the functioning of his Ministry;

(b) in what manner it is helping Indian living overseas; and

(c) the major achievements of his Ministry since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Ministry functions as a single window service provide to overseas Indian by coordinating with other Ministries & departments of Government of India and Indian Missions abroad to solve their problems. The Ministry's responsibilities include all matters relating to overseas Indians, promotion of investment Foreign Investment Implementation Authority and other investment promotion related

institutions. Details of functions of the Ministry is placed at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) A Statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of functioning of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

1. All matters relating to Overseas Indian comprising Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) excluding entries specifically allotted to other Departments.

2. Promotion of investment by Overseas Indian in India including innovative investments and policy initiatives consistent with the overall Government policies particularly in area such as exclusive Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for Overseas Indians.

3. To be represented in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority.

4. To interact with the Investment Commission and to be consulted by the said Commission and to be kept informed of all matters relating to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by Overseas Indians.

5. All emigration under the Emigration Act, 1983 (31 of 1983) from India to overseas countries and the return of emigrants.

6. Matters relating to Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards and Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.

7. Matters relating to programmes in India for Overseas Indian Volunteers.

8. Setting up and administration of Centres for Overseas Indians' Affairs in countries having major concentration of Overseas Indians in consultation and coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs.

9. Policy regarding employment assistance to PIO/NRIs excluding reservations in Government service.

10. Collection and dissemination of information concerning admission of NRI/PIO students to various educational, technical and cultural institutions in India wherever discretionary quota for NRI/PIO students exists, in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Culture.

11. Scholarship to NRI/PIO students for study in India under different schemes in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

12. Development of marketing and communication strategies to ensure strong links between the Overseas Indian community and India.

13. Matters relating to NRI/PIO contributions to the Government and parental organisations in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs.

14. Guidance to and cooperation with the State Governments and coordination with them on matters related to Overseas Indians.

15. To be represented in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

16. Establishment of institutions to impart vocational and technical training to meet the requirements of skilled manpower abroad with the concurrence of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

17. External Publicity relating to Overseas Indians' affairs in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs and in consonance with foreign policy objectives.

18. New initiatives for interaction by Overseas Indians with India in the fields such as Trade, Culture, Tourism, Media, Youth Affairs, Health, Education, Science and Technology in consultation with concerned Ministries.

19. Exercise of powers conferred by the section 7B(1) of Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955).

Note:—The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be consulted by the concerned Ministries in all matters concerneing Overseas Indians handled by them such as PIO Card Scheme, dual citizenship issues, FCRA matters of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) of Overseas Indians. Similarly Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will consult Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs while framing policies and schemes governing deposits by overseas Indians.

Statement-II

The major achievements of the Ministry

* With effect from 1st February, 2006, a revised and comprehensive insurance package called Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 has been introduced which makes it mandatory for every emigrant worker to have the insurance cover under this Scheme.

* Skill upgradation programmes, in collaboration with State Governments and other industry bodies, to enable overseas Indian workers seek better employment opportunities and to help them move up the wage chain is an important initiative being undertaken by the Ministry.

* To ensure protection and welfare of Indian workers abroad, a proposal to comprehensively amend the Emigration Act, 1983 is already underway.

* Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched in January, 2006. As of 18th August, 48,326 persons of Indian origin have been issued with OCI documents.

* Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry and Association of American Physicians of Indian (AAPI) Origin to implement Pilot Project in basic healthcare in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

* A universal integrated electronic remittance facility was launched by the Ministry in association with UTI Bank. The remittance facility is currently operational between Doha and India and is likely to be extended to the entire Gulf region during this financial year.

* The Ministry organised a National Consultation on marriages with overseas Indians in Delhi in February, 2006 to address the problems relating to marriages with overseas Indians.

* The Ministry is bringing out guidance booklets for the benefit of overseas Indians containing information on policies of Government of India in various matters including investment opportunities in India, a guidance booklet on marriages to overseas Indians and a booklet on emigration.

* A Gender Advisory Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MOIA comprising of members from women organisations, State Governments, NGOs, etc., to address problems relating to marriages with overseas Indians, among other things.

Rural Business Hubs

†2960. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Business Hubs are being set up to connect the corporate sector with the rural sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.